

## Environmental Assessment Available for Review

This newsletter provides an overview of the findings of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed improvement of 6.5 miles of US-12 within the City of Saline and Pittsfield Township. The EA prepared for this study, the identified Preferred Alternative, and the accompanying environmental documentation have been developed following the guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. As required by NEPA, the EA will be available for public review for 45 days starting October 30, 2003 at the following locations:

- Pittsfield Township Office, 6201 W. Michigan Ave. (US-12)
- Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple, Saline
- Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti
- Washtenaw County Library, 4135 Washtenaw Ave.
- Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Office, 705 N. Zeeb Road, 2nd Floor, Ann Arbor
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Brighton TSC, 10321 E. Grand River, Ste. 500, Brighton
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) University Region, 4701 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson and
- MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning, 425 Ottawa St., Lansing.

## MDOT to Hold Public Hearing

On **November 19, 2003**, MDOT will hold a public hearing to present the findings of the EA and the Preferred Alternative. The hearing will give the public an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the results of the EA, Preferred Alternative and other aspects of the US-12 Improvement Study. This public hearing will be conducted using an open house format, allowing the public to stop in anytime during the scheduled hours (3:30-7:30 p.m.), gather facts on the study and talk directly with MDOT officials.

During the public hearing, a court reporter will be available to record oral comments from those interested in making a statement about the US-12 Improvement Study. All comments received in response to the EA will appear in the transcript of the public hearing. Also, citizens may complete a comment form available at the public hearing, or comments can be mailed, faxed, or E-mailed to:

Bob Parsons, Public Hearings Officer  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 30050  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Fax: (517) 373-9255  
E-mail: [parsonsb@michigan.gov](mailto:parsonsb@michigan.gov)

All comments must be postmarked or received electronically by December 20, 2003.

A copy of the transcript of all written and oral comments received in response to the findings of the EA will be available for public review at the same locations as the EA by January 2004.

## Preferred Alternative Chosen

MDOT has selected the Preferred Alternative for the US-12 Improvement Study. The alternative includes major roadway improvements along US-12, from the City of Saline to Munger Road, near I-94.


Since the public meeting on November 19, 2002, Practical Alternatives 1 and 1-N, and the four US-12/US-23 interchange alternatives have been further evaluated and refined. A modified version of Practical Alternative 1 was chosen as the Preferred Alternative because it best meets the purpose and need of the study, while minimizing impacts. Input from the public, local stakeholders, government officials and state resource agencies helped guide the selection and design of the Preferred Alternative. Please see the map in the center of this newsletter for details on the alternative.

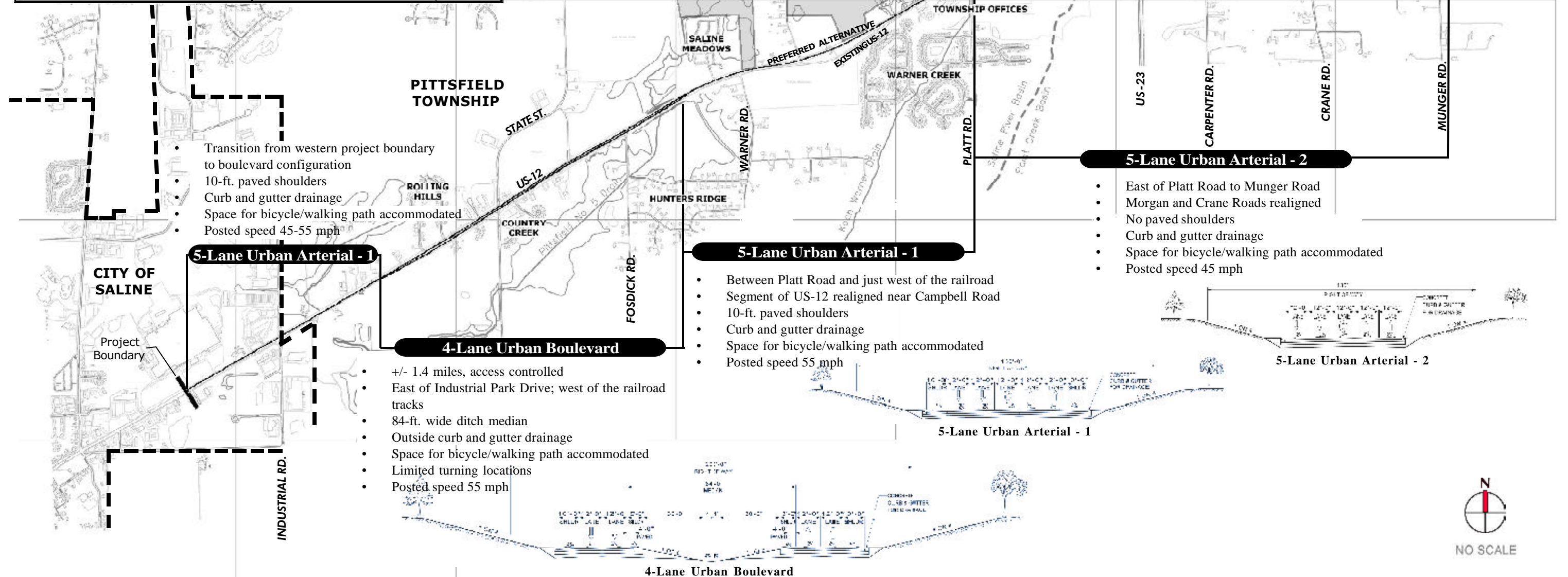


US-12 looking east near Fosdick Road

## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Description	Impacts Summary	
<p>The Preferred Alternative generally follows existing US-12 with a slight deviation north of the current roadbed to straighten the curve just east of Campbell Road. A combination of a five-lane urban arterial and four-lane urban boulevard was selected as the Preferred Alternative. The boulevard segment of the roadway extends 1.4 miles and begins approximately 0.6 miles west of the State/Moon Road intersection and ends approximately 0.8 miles east of the State/Moon Road intersection. Improvements to the US-12/US-23 interchange consist of modifications to the existing rural-diamond interchange. The entrance to southbound US-23 would be moved to align with the existing southbound exit and the entrance to northbound US-23 would be moved to align with the northbound exit. The flow of traffic through the interchange would be improved by reducing the number of signals from three to two. In all, more than 16 alternatives were considered throughout the US-12 Improvement Study, which began in 2001.</p>	Category	Impact
	Residential Displacements	10
	Business Displacements	2
	New Right-of-Way Required (acres)	77.2
	Wetlands (acres)	4.4
	Woodlands (acres)	0.7
	Stream Crossings	3
	Historic Properties	4
	Recreational Property (acres)	3.8

- ### Modified US-23 Existing Diamond Interchange
- Realign US-23 southbound entrance ramp; remove existing entrance
  - Realign US-23 northbound entrance ramp; remove existing entrance
  - Signalize northbound and southbound ramps
  - Reduce traffic signals within the interchange from 3 to 2
  - Accommodates future eastbound US-12 to northbound US-23 loop ramp in southeast quadrant
  - Provide paved shoulder through interchange
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# Public Hearing on the Environmental Assessment

November 19, 2003  
3:30 - 7:30 pm  
Pittsfield Township Office, Morris Hall  
6201 Michigan Avenue

## Study Schedule

Public Meetings	Practical Alternatives	Public Meetings	Preferred Alternative Selection	EA Issued	Public Hearing	Recommended Alternative	Study Completed
March 2002	Summer 2002	November 2002	Summer 2003	Fall 2003	Nov. 19, 2003	Winter 2004	Spring 2004

## Next Steps

Details of the Preferred Alternative may be further refined following analysis of comments received during the public comment period. This work will lead to the Recommended Alternative. The Recommended Alternative will be submitted to the FHWA for approval in winter of 2004.

US-12 Improvement Study  
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